

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-5, 10-13, 15-18, and 23-26 are amended by this response. Claims 1, 14, and 27 are canceled. No claims are added. Accordingly, following entry of these amendments and remarks, claims 2-5, 10-13, 15-18, and 23-26 will remain pending for examination.

As a threshold matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of the allowable subject matter in the instant application. In particular, the Examiner indicated that claims 13 and 26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. This has now been done.

Specifically, claim 13 has now been re-written in independent format to include the elements of claim 1, which has been canceled. In addition, claims 2-5 and 10-12 have now been amended to depend from claim 13. In addition, claim 26 has now been amended to be in independent form to incorporate the elements of claim 14, which has been canceled. Claims 15-18 and 23-25 have now been amended to depend from claim 26. Based upon these amendments, it is respectfully asserted that these claims are also now in condition for allowance.

In order to expedite the issuance of claims with allowable subject matter, non-allowed claims 1, 14, and 27 are hereby canceled without prejudice to the filing of a continuation application drawn thereto.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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